

## Laboratory professional wins Small Business award

*by Timothy Anderl, AFRL Headquarters*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — The Director of the Air Force Research Laboratory Small Business Office was recently selected as a recipient of the Secretary of the Air Force's Special Achievement Award.

Patricia Deschaine was honored for her "expertise, professionalism, and dedication to the Air Force Small Business Program," as part of the fiscal year 1999 Secretary of the Air Force Small and Disadvantaged Business Awards.

These awards are presented each year to individuals and organizations who exhibit exemplary accomplishments in support of the Air Force Small Business Program.

Deschaine received one of two individual awards given. The Secretary of the Air Force also awarded three organizational awards.

According to the award nomination package, "During FY99, Ms. Deschaine worked both as a small business specialist within the Aeronautical Systems Center and as the director of small business at Headquarters Air Force Research Laboratory. Her 'can do' attitude, coupled with her enthusiasm and initiative, have been instrumental to both ASC and AFRL's small business successes."

One such success occurred when she convinced ASC to set aside two contracts for small business in the procurement of training systems and all associated support. In all, five contracts were let under this multiple ordering eight-year contract, the estimated value of which is \$486 million.

During the year, Deschaine reviewed and assisted in the negotiation of several comprehensive subcontracting plans, and served as a focal point for both industry and the Department of Defense in answering questions about the program. She actively participated in associated high-level industry and government meetings, outreach conferences and Technology Transfer meetings.

Deschaine routinely provided assistance to large businesses in identifying small business who were capable of meeting subcontracting requirements. She also wrote to over 250 women-owned businesses, encouraging them to participate in acquisitions and advising them of resources available in assisting them to obtain contracts.

Each year, the Air Force issues monetary and percentage of award base goals that should be met in order to ensure a successful Small Business program. In FY 99, AFRL exceeded the following goals: in the area of Small Business awards, AFRL exceeded its goal of \$475 million with an additional \$51 million; it exceeded its \$242 million goal for Small Business set-asides by \$35 million; and exceeded both its Small Disadvantaged Business and Woman-Owned Small Business awards.

Secretary Peters presented Deschaine her award during a ceremony at the Pentagon on June 19. During the ceremony each of the recipients spoke about the team work necessary to have and maintain a small business program. @